

REMARKS

Claims 12-13 and 19-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 12-13, 19-21, 23-24, 28-29, and 33-35 have been amended.

~~Applicant notes with thanks and appreciation that claims 23-27 and 29-32 were found to have allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.~~

Claims 23 and 29 have been rewritten in independent form. The amendments also address the Examiner's concerns that the language of the base claim was indefinite. Accordingly, claims 23 and 29 are patentable. Claims 24-27, 12-13 and 21 depend directly or indirectly from claim 23 and claims 30-32 depend directly or indirectly from claim 29. Accordingly, these claims are patentable.

The specification has been amended to recite polytetrafluoroethylene for Teflon. Additionally, the specification has been amended to put it in proper US format. No new matter has been added.

Claims 34 and 35 were objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c). Claim 33-34 were rejected under 35 USC §112. Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form and to amend "stop-body" to "--shut-off body--". Claims 34 and 35 have been amended to depend from claim 33. Thus, claims 33-35 are patentable.

Claims 12-13 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Number 3133722 (*McGuire*). Claims 12, 13 and 21 were amended to depend from claim 23. Accordingly, claims 12, 13 and 21 are patentable.

Independent claim 19 is a tap insert with several limitations, including that the length of the tap insert is adjustable. *McGuire* does not teach or suggest a tap insert with all the limitations of claim 19, including the limitations that the length of the tap insert is adjustable. The length of the valve insert in *McGuire* is fixed. Thus, claim 19 and claims 20 and 22 are patentable.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *McGuire* in view of *Buchholz*. Claim 28 was amended to depend from claim 25. Accordingly, it is patentable.

Enclosed is a check for \$43 to cover the cost of the additional independent claim.